IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): An image forming process, comprising: ~~the step of:~~

fixing a toner image on a recording medium, ~~the step of~~ wherein said fixing comprises ~~fixing including~~:

heating one or more heat-transfer media using a heating element, and

pressing the recording medium bearing the toner image to one of the one or more heat-transfer media using a pressurizing member,

wherein at least one of the one or more heat-transfer media is a belt heat-transfer medium and the surface thereof is applied with oil in an amount of 4 mg or less per A4 size, and

wherein the toner image is formed with a toner which comprises a binder resin and a releasing agent, has Dv of from 3.0 μm to 7.0 μm, a particle diameter distribution Dv/Dn of from 1.00 to 1.25, in which Dv is a weight-average particle diameter and Dn is a number-average particle diameter, and an average shape factor SF-1 of from 100 to 150, and contains toner particles having a shape factor SF-1 of 160 or more in an amount of 10% by number or less;

wherein the toner particles have a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G", wherein the storage modulus G' is in the range from 5.5×10^5 Pa to 5.5×10^7 Pa at 80° C and is in the range from 5.0×10^2 Pa to 1.0×10^4 Pa at 180° C, and a maximum of a loss tangent ($\tan\delta = G''/G'$) is in the range from 1.5 to 8.0 at temperature from 80° C to 130° C.

2. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the weight-average particle diameter Dv of the toner is in the range of from 3.0 μm to 5.0 μm.

3. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the particle diameter distribution Dv/Dn of the toner is in the range of from 1.00 to 1.20.

4. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the average shape factor SF-1 of the toner is in the range of from 100 to 130.

5. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein a content of toner having a shape factor SF-1 of 150 or more in the toner is 10% by number or less.

6. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the releasing agent has a melting point of from 60°C to 120° C and is contained in the toner in an amount of from 1% by weight to 20% by weight.

7. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the releasing agent in each toner particle is dispersed in a form of particles, wherein dispersed particles of the releasing agent having a particle diameter of from 0.1 μm to 3 μm occupy 80% by number or more of the total dispersed particles, and wherein the dispersed particles is concentrated in the vicinity of the surface of the toner particle as observed with a transmission electron microscope (TEM).

8. (Canceled):

9. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin has an acid value of from 1 mg-KOH/g to 50 mg-KOH/g.

10. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin has a glass transition point of from 40° C to 60° C.

11. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the binder resin comprises a polyester resin containing a tetrahydrofuran-soluble component, the tetrahydrofuran-soluble component has a molecular weight distribution with a main peak at molecular weights of from 2,500 to 10,000 and with a number-average molecular weight of from 2,500 to 50,000.

12. (Original): An image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the toner is a toner which is prepared by: at least one of dissolving and dispersing, in an organic solvent, an isocyanate-containing polyester prepolymer, a compound capable at least one of undergoing elongation and crosslinking with the prepolymer, and at least one toner component to form one of a solution and dispersion; subjecting one of the solution and the dispersion to at least one of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction in an aqueous medium to form a dispersion; and removing the solvent from the dispersion.

13. (Currently Amended): An image forming process according to claim 1, further comprising ~~a step of supplying a toner to a latent electrostatic image formed on the photoconductor and applying an alternating field so that a toner image is formed to develop the latent electrostatic image~~ supplying said toner to a latent electrostatic image formed on a photoconductor and applying an alternating field thereby developing said latent electrostatic image to form said toner image.

14. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus, comprising: a photoconductor; a charging unit configured to charge the photoconductor; an exposing unit configured to expose the charged photoconductor imagewise so as to form a latent electrostatic image on the photoconductor; a developing unit configured to house a toner therein and supply the toner to the latent electrostatic image so as to form a toner image; a transfer unit configured to transfer the toner image onto a recording medium; and a fixing unit configured to heat and press the toner image so as to fix the toner image onto the recording medium, wherein the fixing unit comprises: one or more heat-transfer media wherein at least one of the heat-transfer media is a belt heat-transfer medium; a heating element configured to heat the one or more heat-transfer media; and a pressurizing member configured to press the recording medium and bring the recording medium to be in a contact with one of the one or more heat-transfer media, wherein the toner comprise: a binder resin; and a releasing agent, in which the toner has Dv of from 3.0 μm to 7.0 μm, a particle diameter distribution Dv/Dn of from 1.00 to 1.25, wherein Dv is a weight-average particle diameter and Dn is a number-average particle diameter, and an average shape factor SF-1 of from 100 to 150, and contains toner particles having a shape factor SF-1 of 160 or more in an amount of 10% by number or less.

15. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising an oil-application unit configured to apply oil to the surface of the belt heat-transfer medium in an amount of 4 mg or less per A4 size.

16. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the weight-average particle diameter Dv of the toner is in the range of from 3.0 μm to 5.0 μm.

17. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the particle diameter distribution Dv/Dn is in the range of from 1.00 to 1.20.

18. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the average shape factor SF-1 of the toner is in the range of from 100 to 130.

19. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the content of toner particles having a shape factor SF-1 of 150 or more in the toner is 10% by number or less.

20. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the releasing agent has a melting point of 60° C to 120° C. and is contained in the toner in an amount of from 1% by weight to 20% by weight.

21. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the releasing agent in each toner particle is dispersed in a form of particles, wherein dispersed particles of the releasing agent having an average particle diameter of 0.1 μm to 3 μm occupy 80% by number or more of the total dispersed particles, and wherein the dispersed particles is concentrated in the vicinity of the surface of the toner particle as observed with a transmission electron microscope (TEM).

22. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the toner has a storage modulus G' and a loss modulus G", wherein the storage modulus G' is in the range from $5.5x10^5$ Pa to $5.5x10^7$ Pa at 80° C and is in a range from $5.0x10^2$ Pa to $1.0x10^4$ Pa at 180°

C, and a maximum of a loss tangent ($\tan\delta=G''/G'$) is in a range from 1.5 to 8.0 at temperature from 80° C to 130° C.

23. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the binder resin has an acid value of from 1 mg-KOH/g to 50 mg-KOH/g.

24. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the binder resin has a glass transition point of 40° C to 60° C.

25. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the binder resin comprises a polyester resin containing a tetrahydrofuran-soluble component, the tetrahydrofuran-soluble component has a molecular weight distribution with a main peak at molecular weights of 2,500 to 10,000 and with a number-average molecular weight of 2,500 to 50,000.

26. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the toner is a toner which is prepared by: at least one of dissolving and dispersing, in an organic solvent, an isocyanate-containing polyester prepolymer, a compound capable of undergoing elongation or crosslinking with the prepolymer, and at least one toner component to form one of a solution and a dispersion; subjecting one of the solution and the dispersion to at least one of a crosslinking reaction and an elongation reaction in an aqueous medium to form a dispersion; and removing the solvent from the dispersion.

27. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the photoconductor is an amorphous silicon photoconductor.

28. (Withdrawn): An image forming apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the charging unit comprises a charging member in which the charging member is subjected to be in contact with the photoconductor and be applied with voltage so as to charge the photoconductor.

29. (Withdrawn): A process cartridge comprising: a photoconductor; a developing unit configured to house a toner therein; and at least one of a charging unit; and a cleaning unit, wherein the toner comprises a binder resin and a releasing agent, has a weight-average particle diameter Dv of from 3.0 μm to 7.0 μm, a particle diameter distribution Dv/Dn of from 1.00 to 1.25, in which Dv is the weight-average particle diameter and Dn is a number-average particle diameter, and an average shape factor SF-1 of from 100 to 150 and contains toner particles having a shape factor SF-1 of 160 or more in an amount of 10% by number or less.